DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619

IMPETIGO POLICY

Impetigo

Impetigo is a superficial bacterial infection of the top layer of skin characterised by blisters that become golden and crusted. Blisters usually occur on the limb extremities or on the face. The clear fluid from the blisters is highly infectious and infects adjacent skin areas; large extended blisters up to 10 cm in diameter may result. The blisters quickly become crusted. The incubation period is usually 1-4 days, depending on the infecting organism. Patients are infectious until the lesions are healed, or until 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment. See: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/impetigo/ for more information.

Policy Statement

Dulwich College will take appropriate measures to avoid spread of the infection. Impetigo is very infectious and is spread by direct contact or by touching objects that have been in contact with blister fluid.

Procedure

If impetigo is identified or suspected by any member of the Medical Centre staff the College will immediately contact the pupil's parents or guardian. If the pupil is a day pupil their parents will be asked to collect them from College and take them to their GP for treatment. If impetigo is identified or suspected in a pupil who is a boarder that pupil must immediately be isolated until he has seen the College Medical Officer and received treatment as appropriate.

Following commencement of treatment any pupil must be isolated from the College community for a minimum period of 48 hours following the commencement of antibiotic treatment or until the patches dry out and crust over (if treatment is not given).

If the pupil is a boarder, they must stay at the Medical Centre during the school day but may return to the Boarding House in the evening. Before returning to the Boarding House the pupil must be informed by the Medical Centre staff of the precautions to be taken to avoid cross infection.

Policy Owner:	Deputy Master Co-curricular, Operations and Partnerships
Last Reviewed:	May 2026
Date of Next Review:	Academic Year 2027-28 (or earlier as required)